

From: [Rivera-Lupianez, Ana](#)
To: [Mastrota, Nicholas](#); [Crowley, Matthew](#); [Fletcher, Rachel](#); [McFarley, Heather](#); [Miller, Robert](#); [Panger, Melissa](#); [Recore, Shanna](#); [Rivera-Lupianez, Ana](#); [Rossmeisl, Colleen](#); [Hopkins, Yvette](#)
Cc: [Chou, Felicia](#); [Schroeder, Carolyn](#)
Subject: FW: Noteworthy Case from NPIC (group animals; zinc phosphide)
Date: Friday, October 15, 2021 7:57:01 AM
Attachments: [2021_6447.pdf](#)
[2021_8312.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Good morning,

Attached, two pesticide exposure incidents affecting animals.

Please forward to interested staff.

This email might contain sensitive information, please use discretion when forwarding to enforcement agencies

Thanks,

Ana

Ana Rivera-Lupiáñez

[Pesticide Worker Safety Programs](#)

Office of Pesticide Programs

Environmental Protection Agency

rivera-lupianez.ana@epa.gov

(202) 566-2450

Spread the word about the [National Pesticide Information Center \(NPIC\)](#)!

From: Cross, Amy S <Amy.Cross@oregonstate.edu>
Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2021 6:30 PM
To: Rivera-Lupianez, Ana <Rivera-Lupianez.Ana@epa.gov>
Cc: Jenkins, Jeffrey James <Jeffrey.Jenkins@oregonstate.edu>
Subject: Noteworthy Case from NPIC

Hi Ana,

We had two cases reported recently that met criteria for EPA notification.

Case #6447 (group animal illness): Three horses became ill after a nextdoor application of an unknown product on agricultural land. The NPIC specialist provided contact information for the state pesticide regulatory authority to further report the incident.

-001

Case #8312 (group animal death): Six wild animals (5 mice and 1 bird) were likely accidentally

poisoned after residential use of a zinc phosphide product to control moles. The product was not applied according to label instruction, sprinkled on top of soil instead of covered. (EPA Reg. No. 4-285, zinc phosphide). -002

Thanks,
Amy

--

Amy Cross, Project Coordinator
National Pesticide Information Center ([NPIC](#))
[Oregon State University](#) | Environmental and Molecular Toxicology

"Assume miscommunication, not malice."

Date: October 13, 2021

State: Mississippi

Certainty Index: N/A

Narrative: Caller seeking information on what her legal options are to stop her neighbor from performing aerial applications near her horses. Caller reported she lives "in the country" and her property borders a large farm. Caller reported she has three horses, and her horse pasture is in the back of her property near the neighboring field. Caller reported her property is separated from the neighboring property by a levy, a large fence, and a row of "tall" oak trees. Caller reported that around one week before the call, she noticed a plane "spraying" the neighboring field close to the tree line. Caller reported she didn't see anything physically drift onto her property, but reported she has not been home lately. Caller reported it was a "windy day" so she assumed that if something was being applied, it would have drifted to her property. Caller reported that around three days before the call, one of her three horses (male, age unknown, weight unknown) developed coughing, sweating, and lung irritation. Caller reported the other two (gender, age, weight unknown) were lethargic. Caller reported she called her veterinarian, who came out to perform an exam and told her the symptoms appeared to be from "poisoning." Caller reported she does not know what is being applied, but her neighbor typically performs similar applications at the beginning of every fall on his crops. Caller reported she has spoken with the neighbor multiple times about these applications and asked him to stay further from the tree line.

Discussed NPIC services, including access to health and safety information related to pesticides, lack of regulatory authority, and inability to provide legal advice. Discussed the label and the law, including pesticide applicators being required to apply products according to the label directions. Provided State Lead Pesticide Agency contact to report potential pesticide applications that may be concerning or illegal.

Explanatory Information -- This report is prepared for use by EPA and/or EPA partners. The text is taken directly from the NPIC Pesticide Incident Database (PID) in "raw" form. Thus, the reader may find occasional misspellings, typos, poor sentence structure, and/or grammatical errors. For some inquiries to NPIC, there may be no specific active ingredient named, for others there may be more than one active ingredient. Also, the person making the inquiry may not know the name or correct name of the pesticide product(s) involved - NPIC generally records the product name provided.

Disclaimer -- Material presented in this report is based on information as provided to NPIC by individuals who have contacted NPIC for information or to report a pesticide incident. None of this information has been verified or substantiated by independent investigation by NPIC staff, laboratory analysis, or by any other means. NPIC is not a regulatory authority and does not conduct or engage in enforcement activities. NPIC characterizes the information provided by assigning a certainty index. The certainty index reflects the relationship between reported signs/symptoms and the expected signs/symptoms in the available literature about the active ingredient(s). The exposure scenario(s), route(s), and timing are also considered. NPIC makes no claims or guarantees as to the accuracy of the index or narratives, other than that NPIC has done its best to accurately document the information provided by the inquirer(s).

Confidentiality Agreement -- All reports are anonymous and identifying information has been removed. The person/party to whom this report was provided agrees to hold confidential any information that can be linked to the identity of the person/persons listed in the report, including, but not limited to, names, phone numbers, addresses, or places of employment. The use of this report in part or entirety by the person/party to whom the report was provided signifies acceptance by that person/party of the aforementioned confidentiality conditions.

Date: October 13, 2021

State: Wisconsin

Certainty Index: Consistent

Narrative: Caller seeking health, pest control, and chemical information regarding EPA registration number 4-285 (active ingredient zinc phosphide), a product that she used in her yard to get rid of moles. Caller reported that last week on 10/6/21, she sprinkled the granules of this product onto the edges of the flower garden in her backyard on top of the soil. Caller reported that she also placed the granules into mole holes around her yard and then covered the holes with wood chips and dirt. Caller reported that she had seen the moles crawling up the wall of her home, so she sprinkled granules on top of the soil next to the wall.

Caller reported that about 1 or 2 days later, on 10/8/21, she noticed 5 dead mice and 1 dead bird around the yard. Caller reported she did not know the species of the mice or the bird.

Caller reported that her cats like to use a back patio connected to the yard and asked if they could be at risk to the product. Caller asked for less toxic control recommendations. Caller asked when it would be safe for her to garden in the flower bed. Caller asked when the product would break down in the soil.

Discussed risk equation concepts, including toxicity and routes of exposure. Discussed following the label directions, including the unknown risks of off-label use. Discussed ways to minimize exposure, including removing the granules if possible, wearing personal protective equipment, and keeping the cats out of the area where the product was applied. Discussed the mode of action of active ingredient zinc phosphide, including the production of the toxic byproduct phosphine gas and minimizing contact with poisoned animals (NPIC Fact Sheet Zinc Phosphide). Discussed potential health effects of dermal, oral, and inhalation exposure to active ingredient zinc phosphide (NPIC Fact Sheet Zinc Phosphide). Discussed environmental fate of active ingredient, including soil half-life and plant uptake (NPIC Fact Sheet Zinc Phosphide). Provided contact information for the Cooperative Extension Service for possible information on pest ID and control recommendations. Resources used: NPIC Fact Sheet Zinc Phosphide.

Explanatory Information -- This report is prepared for use by EPA and/or EPA partners. The text is taken directly from the NPIC Pesticide Incident Database (PID) in "raw" form. Thus, the reader may find occasional misspellings, typos, poor sentence structure, and/or grammatical errors. For some inquiries to NPIC, there may be no specific active ingredient named, for others there may be more than one active ingredient. Also, the person making the inquiry may not know the name or correct name of the pesticide product(s) involved - NPIC generally records the product name provided.

Disclaimer -- Material presented in this report is based on information as provided to NPIC by individuals who have contacted NPIC for information or to report a pesticide incident. None of this information has been verified or substantiated by independent investigation by NPIC staff, laboratory analysis, or by any other means. NPIC is not a regulatory authority and does not conduct or engage in enforcement activities. NPIC characterizes the information provided by assigning a certainty index. The certainty index reflects the relationship between reported signs/symptoms and the expected signs/symptoms in the available literature about the active ingredient(s). The exposure scenario(s), route(s), and timing are also considered. NPIC makes no claims or guarantees as to the accuracy of the index or narratives, other than that NPIC has done its best to accurately document the information provided by the inquirer(s).

Confidentiality Agreement -- All reports are anonymous and identifying information has been removed. The person/party to whom this report was provided agrees to hold confidential any information that can be linked to the identity of the person/persons listed in the report, including, but not limited to, names, phone numbers, addresses, or places of employment. The use of this report in part or entirety by the person/party to whom the report was provided signifies acceptance by that person/party of the aforementioned confidentiality conditions.